

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 3, 2004, has been reviewed. Claims 1 through 30 are currently pending in the application. Claims 8 through 21, 28 and 29 are allowed. Applicants note with gratitude the Examiner's indication of such allowability. Claims 1 through 5, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 30 are rejected. Claims 6, 7, 15, 24 and 25 are objected to. Applicants have amended claims 9-12 to correct an improper antecedent basis and claim 22 to correct a typographical error. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Information Disclosure Statement(s)

Applicants note the filing of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on February 23, 2004 and note that a copy of the PTO/SB/08A was not returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO/SB/08A be made of record herein.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification at page 3 to correct a typographical error.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on Ouderkirk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,902,378)

Claims 1 through 5, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ouderkirk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,902,378). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that the Office Action does not make a *prima facie* case of anticipation.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Here, Oudekirk et al. do not describe each and every element set forth in claims 1-5, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 30. In particular, Oudekirk et al.'s disclosure of carbon black and 193 nm wavelength emitting laser (Example 1, columns 17 and 18) are described in conjunction with treatment of **poly(vinyl chloride) film** whereas claims 1-5, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 30 all require a **fluorocarbon resin to be ablated**. As a matter of fact, nowhere in the cited patent is bulk laser ablation of fluorocarbon resin disclosed. Furthermore, claims 23, 26 and 30 all require the generation of "microfluidic structures," which is not found in the disclosure of Oudekirk et al. Therefore, Oudekirk et al. do not describe each and every element as set forth in claims 1-5, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 30 and thus do not anticipate the claims. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 102(b) be withdrawn.

Objections to Claims 6, 7, 15, 24 and 25/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 7, 15, 24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn in view of the amendments and remarks above.

Claims 8 through 21, 28 and 29 are allowable over the prior art of record.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

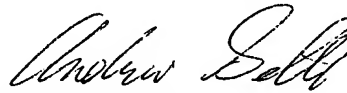
The proposed amendments to claims 9-12, and 22 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 30 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

It is not believed that any time extension or fees are required with this response. If this is incorrect, an extension of time as deemed necessary is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees or deficiency or credit any over payment to Deposit Account no. 50-1627.

Respectfully submitted,



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